United Nations A/BUR/58/SR.1

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Rec

Distr.: General
25 September 2003

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 17 September 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hunte (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Saint Lucia)

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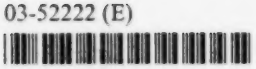

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Organization of the work of the fifty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/58/1 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

Section II: Organization of the session

1. *The Committee took note of section II, paragraphs 1 to 39 (headings A to M), of the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/BUR/58/1 and Corr.1) and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the information and recommendations for action therein.*

2. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and said that he trusted that he would shortly receive from each of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly a letter concerning the designation of a liaison person for the duration of the session.

Section III: Observations on the organization of the work of the General Assembly

3. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the information contained in section III.*

Section IV: Adoption of the agenda

4. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to section IV and to the amendments to the Secretary-General's memorandum contained in the addendum (A/BUR/58/1/Add.1).

Paragraphs 44 to 46

5. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraphs 44 to 46.*

Paragraph 47 (Inclusion of items)

Items 1 to 3

6. **The Chairman** said that the General Assembly had already dealt with items 1 to 3.

Items 4 to 28

7. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 4 to 28 in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session.*

Item 29 (Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte)

8. **The Chairman** said that, at the 31st plenary meeting of the fifty-seventh session on 16 October 2002, the General Assembly had decided to include item 29 in the draft agenda. He understood that further consultations on that matter were needed, and took it that the Committee wished to await their results.

9. *It was so decided.*

Items 30 to 91

10. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 30 to 91 in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session.*

Item 92 (Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India)

11. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal) said that, having consulted the representatives of France and Madagascar, he wished to propose that the item should be deferred and placed on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

12. **Mr. Hoscheit** (Luxembourg) said that his delegation supported the proposal of the representative of Senegal.

13. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item in question should be deferred to its fifty-ninth session and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

14. *It was so decided.*

Items 93 to 162

15. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 93 to 162 in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session.*

Item 163 (Financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire)

16. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 163 in the*

agenda of the fifty-eighth session, as proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/58/141.

Item 164 (International Year of Sport and Physical Education)

17. **The Chairman** said that inclusion of the item had been proposed by Tunisia in document A/58/142. The representative of Tunisia had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

18. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Hachani (Tunisia) took a place at the Committee table.*

19. **Mr. Hachani** (Tunisia) said that many Member States supported the inclusion of the item in question in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session. A round-table meeting of ministers and senior officials of physical education and sport from all over the world, held on 9 and 10 January 2003 at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), had discussed the broad significance of such activities, and Tunisia's initiative had been backed by countries attending the African Union summit held in Maputo from 4 to 12 July 2003. The Group of 77 and the Organization of the Islamic Conference had also endorsed the proposal for an International Year of Sport and Physical Education.

20. Sport and physical education promoted health and physical development, social cohesion, tolerance, dialogue and consultation. They provided an experience of solidarity and cooperation which helped to consolidate a culture of peace. Athletes must be protected, and international cooperation was needed in areas including the drafting of an international convention against doping in sport.

21. With the addition of a new agenda item, the international community would be able to discuss such matters, and the proclamation of an international year of sport and physical education would focus attention on the goals which had been set. Tunisia, and the countries which continued to support its proposal, would work to give sport the role it deserved in education because of its ability to improve well-being and the social environment, and promote peace.

22. The proposed agenda item was unique, and did not repeat the subject matter of other items. The report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace, co-chaired by Adolf Ogi, the Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace of the Secretary-General, and by Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), entitled "Sport as a Tool for Development and Peace: Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals" strengthened Tunisia's belief that the General Assembly could provide valuable guidance in using sport to further peace and development.

23. *Mr. Hachani (Tunisia) withdrew.*

24. **Ms. Tasneem** (Bangladesh) said that her delegation supported the proposal, since physical education and sport promoted confidence, solidarity, cooperation and cultural harmony in the minds of young people and improved social advancement. Since the developing countries lacked resources and capacity in that area, the United Nations had a responsibility to raise awareness of the issue and help such countries to achieve high standards in physical education and sport. Bangladesh was committed to inculcating a culture of peace and non-violence in the minds of the children of the world through education, advocacy and awareness. It looked forward to helping to proclaim an International Year of Sport and Physical Education.

25. **Mr. Mubarez** (Yemen) said that his delegation valued the initiative of Tunisia because the international community's efforts to achieve peace and security demanded ever greater cooperation between Member States and because it marked the first time that an agenda item had been devoted to the role of physical education and sport in promoting development.

26. **Mr. Aboutahir** (Morocco) said that he applauded the initiative of Tunisia, as sport could be used to promote development and peace. The proposed item was entirely new, and extremely relevant in the current global climate. It would help the international community to build solidarity, understanding and tolerance. The Group of 77 had already discussed its support for the proposal, and would further discuss the matter with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of its members with a view to including it in a ministerial statement.

27. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal) said that the proposal of Tunisia deserved support for the very valid reasons that others had already explained. At the African Union summit held in July 2003 in Maputo, the Heads of State and Government had endorsed the proclamation of 2004 as the International Year of Sport and Physical

Education and encouraged a resolution on that subject. Physical education and sport helped to overcome social inequality and encourage dialogue between peoples and nations.

28. **Mr. Zarif** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the proclamation of an International Year of Sport and Physical Education would provide an opportunity to address many issues, as the representative of Tunisia had explained. The Organization of the Islamic Conference had also supported the initiative, and its ministers in New York would be expressing that support to the General Assembly.

29. **The Chairman** said that a number of representatives of other Member States had asked to participate in the discussion of the item. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to their requests.

30. *It was so decided.*

31. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Helg (Switzerland), Mr. Zeidan (Lebanon), Mr. Dangue Réwaka (Gabon), Mr. Requeijo Gual (Cuba), Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) and Mr. Roshdy (Egypt) took places at the Committee table.*

32. **Mr. Helg** (Switzerland) said that his delegation firmly believed that sport had potential for boosting development, especially in fragile and troubled parts of the world. It supported Tunisia's initiative, and would do its best to make it a success.

33. It hoped that the Member States would support the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session, and wished to underline that the new item differed from item 23 ("Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal"). Although the two were complementary, the existing item focused on peace and security, while the new item focused on development. The next step should be to draft a resolution, which could be based on the report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace.

34. **Mr. Zeidan** (Lebanon) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of item 164 in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session because it was unique: it not only promoted a worldwide culture of peace, it also promoted development.

35. **Mr. Dangue Réwaka** (Gabon) said that his delegation supported the initiative of Tunisia, for the reasons already expressed by other delegations.

36. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of item 164 in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session, since physical education and sport played a central role in social development, solidarity, peace, cooperation and understanding between peoples.

37. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his delegation supported the proposal of Tunisia to include in the agenda an item on an International Year of Sport and Physical Education, and hoped that other delegations would also support that initiative.

38. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) thanked Tunisia for the initiative to include an item on an International Year of Sport and Physical Education in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session and hoped that it would have the support of other delegations.

39. *Mr. Helg (Switzerland), Mr. Zeidan (Lebanon), Mr. Dangue Réwaka (Gabon), Mr. Requeijo Gual (Cuba), Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) and Mr. Roshdy (Egypt) withdrew.*

40. **Mr. van den Berg** (Netherlands) said that his delegation supported the proclamation of an International Year of Sport and Physical Education proposed by Tunisia. However, because the Committee was responsible for ensuring that the General Assembly's proceedings were effective, he wondered how it should deal with the proposal and, more precisely, whether adding an item to the agenda was the most suitable approach. Adding an issue to the agenda was easy; dealing with the issue so that it could be removed from the agenda was much more difficult. Item 23 ("Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal") already dealt with sport and was surely broad enough to encompass the proposal of Tunisia. The distinction between linking sport with promoting peace and stability and linking sport with promoting development was highly artificial: current debates in the Organization tended to connect peace, stability and development rather than separate them. He suggested dealing with the proposal under item 23, not out of a desire to criticize the initiative but rather out of a desire to see the Committee fulfil its responsibilities as well as possible.

41. **The Chairman** said that the comments of the representative of the Netherlands would be duly noted.

42. **Mr. Andrianarivelo-Razafy** (Madagascar) said that his delegation supported the proposal of Tunisia to include an item on an International Year of Sport and Physical Education.

43. **Ms. Mahouve** (Cameroon) said that her delegation supported the proposal and agreed with the Tunisian delegation's explanation of the grounds for that proposal.

44. **Mr. MacLeod** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation associated itself with the views of the representative of the Netherlands.

45. **Mr. Kmoníček** (Czech Republic) said that his delegation associated itself with the views of the representative of the Netherlands, particularly the suggestion for the proposal of Tunisia to be covered under item 23.

46. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland) said that his delegation associated itself with the views of the representative of the Netherlands. If in the end the issue was added as a separate item on the agenda, it would be an obvious candidate for clustering with item 23. Perhaps the Committee should think carefully before adding to the agenda an item that was so obviously connected with another.

47. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to defer discussion of the issue to allow time for further consultation.

48. *It was so decided.*

Item 165 (Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Community in the General Assembly)

49. **The Chairman** said that inclusion of the item had been proposed by Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan in document A/58/143. The representative of Kazakhstan had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

50. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan) took a place at the Committee table.*

51. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the five members of the Eurasian Economic Community (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan), said that the Community, established by an agreement signed in Astana on 10 October 2000 and registered with the United Nations on 6 May 2003, was an international economic organization which aimed to establish a common external customs border, a single external economic policy and a single body of tariffs, prices and other features of a common market.

52. The Eurasian Economic Community had been formed in order to drive forward the process of building the existing customs union into a single economic area, and to coordinate its member States' integration into the world economy and trading system. It would achieve its aims by helping its member States to transform their socio-economic systems in a coordinated way, while fulfilling their economic potential.

53. Increased intergovernmental cooperation in trade, customs matters, transit policy, migration law, currency regulation, building a single energy market and other fields had produced an improvement in socio-economic indicators in the member States of the Community.

54. As shown in the explanatory letter from the Community (annex I to document A/58/143), the Community had asked for observer status in the General Assembly in order to make cooperation with the United Nations more regular and more structured, in the interests of furthering peace, security and common effort regionally and internationally. He hoped that the Community's request would be granted.

55. *Mr. Kazykhanov withdrew.*

56. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 165 in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session.*

Item 166

57. **The Chairman** said that the inclusion of item 166, entitled "Question of the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations", had been proposed by a number of Member States in documents A/58/197 and Add.1. The representative of the Gambia had asked to address the Committee on the matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

58. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) took a place at the Committee table.*

59. **Mr. Grey-Johnson** (Gambia), speaking on behalf of Belize, Burkina Faso, Chad, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Gambia, Grenada, Malawi, Nicaragua, Palau, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Swaziland and Tuvalu, requested the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda. Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, he drew attention to documents A/58/197 and Add.1, which contained an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II).

60. In an era of heightened awareness of the evils of terrorism, there was a need for stronger cooperation among nations. Collective action was also needed in order to manage the environment, including marine resources and the biosphere, while promoting sustainable development and ensuring that the countries most likely to cause environmental damage through their advanced industrial production systems were made accountable for their actions. Lastly, globalization made it necessary to develop rules and standards which were binding on all trading nations.

61. Taiwan was the only country to be excluded from the international arrangements designed to regulate the actions of nations on global issues other than those falling within the mandate of the World Trade Organization (WTO). For example, the World Health Organization (WHO) had delayed its response to Taiwan's appeal for assistance during the recent Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic because of the usual political pressures.

62. In the twenty-first century, sovereignty often took second place to politics, economics or security. In the global village, it was in the interests of all to work together in the spirit of universality on which the United Nations had been founded. Taiwan was an important player in the areas of trade, development, transport and finance and the Taiwanese were a peace-loving people who, despite the discrimination that they faced, had achieved the world's seventeenth largest economy and its fifteenth largest volume of trade.

63. It was discriminatory to deny Taiwan's 23 million inhabitants their rightful place in the international community; even General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), said to provide the justification for refusing Taiwan a seat at the United Nations, did not in fact state that it could not be admitted. Taiwan was not and had never been a province of the People's Republic of China; since the latter's establishment in 1949, the two sides of the Taiwan Strait had been governed separately. Only the legitimate, democratically elected Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) could speak for Taiwan's people or represent it at the United Nations or in any other forum. He therefore urged that a supplementary item on the question of the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations should be included in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

64. *Mr. Grey-Johnson (Gambia) withdrew.*

65. **Mr. Wang** Yingfan (China) said that once again, a few countries had raised the so-called "Question of the representation of Taiwan in the United Nations" with the aim of creating two Chinas or "one China, one Taiwan" in the Organization. His Government strongly condemned such flagrant interference in China's internal affairs and resolutely opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the General Assembly.

66. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was a part. Both the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation had affirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan under international law. Over 160 countries maintained diplomatic relations with China and all of them recognized the "one China" principle. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopted by an overwhelming majority in 1971, had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations in political, legal and procedural terms. Since the restoration of its legitimate rights, the Chinese Government had worked to ensure that the activities of the Organization and its specialized agencies benefited all Chinese, including those in Taiwan.

67. No sovereign State would allow one of its provinces or regions to participate in the United Nations, since statehood was a condition for membership. Thus, Taiwan was not eligible for participation in the Organization under any name and on any pretext, as shown by the General Committee's rejection of the proposal to include the relevant item in the agenda of every General Assembly since 1993.

68. The question of Taiwan was an internal matter for China. An early solution to the Taiwan question through the creative concept of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", was an aspiration shared by all Chinese, both at home and abroad, and had been implemented successfully in both Hong Kong

and Macao. Following reunification, Taiwan would be able to retain its existing social system and enjoy a high degree of autonomy. Its people would join their compatriots on the mainland in exercising the right to administer China and share its honour in the international community and would be eligible to participate in the activities of international organizations as part of the Chinese delegation.

69. Respect for States' sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs were embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. He thanked the vast number of delegations which supported the "one China" principle and expressed the belief that the General Committee would again refuse to include item 166 in the agenda.

70. **The Chairman** said that a number of non-member sponsors had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure. In addition, there were a number of non-member non-sponsors who had asked to participate. As he saw no objection, he took it that members agreed to waive rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

71. *It was so decided.*

72. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Farhâdi (Afghanistan), Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria), Ms. Izata (Angola), Mr. Bocalandro (Argentina), Mr. Leslie (Belize), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Nteturuye (Burundi), Mr. Laotegguelnodji (Chad), Mr. Pimentel (Chile), Mr. Stagno Ugarte (Costa Rica), Mr. Djangone-Bi (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Zackheos (Cyprus), Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mr. Kim Chang Guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Mr. Yahya (Djibouti), Mr. Gregoire (Dominica), Mr. Roshdy (Egypt), Mr. Abebe (Ethiopia), Mr. Diallo (Guinea), Mr. Neil (Jamaica), Mr. Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Mansour (Kuwait), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. Capelle (Marshall Islands), Mrs. Huree-Agarwal (Mauritius), Mr. Aguilar Zinser (Mexico), Mr. Chidumo (Mozambique), Mr. Thapa (Nepal), Mr. Kyota (Palau), Mr. Buffa (Paraguay), Mr. Okio (Republic of the Congo), Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe), Ms. Ninčić (Serbia and Montenegro), Mr. Jino (Solomon Islands), Ms. Ndhlovu (South Africa), Ms. Menéndez (Spain), Mr. Mahendran (Sri Lanka), Mr. Manis (Sudan), Mr. Mamba (Swaziland), Mr. Obeid (Syrian Arab Republic) and Ms. Cedeño Reyes (Venezuela) took places at the Committee table.*

73. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan strongly opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda. It fully supported the efforts of the Government of the People's Republic of China to safeguard that country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. That Government was the only legitimate representative of the People's Republic of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the issue of China's representation at the United Nations in political, legal and procedural terms. Moreover, the matter was an internal one which the Chinese Government and people could settle by themselves.

74. **Mr. Al-Mansour** (Kuwait) said that it was clear from General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) that the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China. Any attempt to reintroduce the question was a clear violation of that resolution and of the Charter and ran counter to the principles of sovereignty, territory and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. There was one China, one Chinese people and one Chinese Government with its seat in Beijing. His delegation was therefore against including the supplementary item.

75. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) said that his Government maintained its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the matter of China's representation in the United Nations; there was no need to revisit the issue. He therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the General Assembly.

76. **Ms. Tasneem** (Bangladesh) said that there was only one China and that the question of Taiwan was an internal matter to be settled by the Member State concerned. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations in political, legal and procedural terms; it would not be to the Organization's advantage to reopen the question. Her delegation therefore rejected the proposal.

77. **Mr. Bocalandro** (Argentina) said that Argentina had been one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and had supported the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI) in the interests of justice and out of respect for the principle of territorial integrity. The

Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legal Government of China and Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China. Thus, he could not support the inclusion of the item.

78. **Mr. Kim** Chang Guk (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate representative of the whole of China in the United Nations; resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved that issue over 30 years previously. By its successive attempts to gain membership, Taiwan was seeking to legitimate the "two Chinas" principle and to create a permanent division in the Organization; that effort ran counter to the spirit of the resolution and of the Charter and to the Chinese people's desire for reunification. He was opposed to any such interference in the internal affairs of China and to the proposal.

79. **Mr. Zackheos** (Cyprus) said that his delegation was not in favour of including the proposed item because of his Government's commitment to the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and to the "one China" principle. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) had established that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate representative of the Chinese people.

80. **Mr. Diallo** (Guinea) said that the adoption by an overwhelming majority of resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all. Guinea had been one of the first countries in sub-Saharan Africa to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, which was a major provider of assistance to developing countries. His delegation strongly condemned the proposal, which constituted flagrant interference in the affairs of a sovereign State in violation of the Charter. There was only one China, and Taiwan was and had always been a part of it.

81. **Mr. Chidumo** (Mozambique) said that there was only one China and that Taiwan was part of the People's Republic of China. Attempts to raise the so-called question of Taiwan's representation in the United Nations had the sole purpose of creating two Chinas or "one China, one Taiwan", in violation of the "one China" principle widely recognized by the international community. Taiwan had been an integral part of China since antiquity; the annual attempts to challenge the validity of resolution 2758 (XXVI) were an attack on the credibility of the United Nations. He was opposed to inclusion of the item.

82. **Mr. Mahendran** (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation supported the position set forth by the People's Republic of China. He appealed to the Taiwanese people to listen to their brothers across the Strait and to settle the matter among themselves rather than bringing it before an international forum. The item should not be included in the agenda.

83. **Mr. Yahya** (Djibouti) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the issue: there was only one China and the People's Republic of China was its sole representative. He therefore opposed inclusion of the item, which would constitute interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China.

84. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica) said that the provisions and principles of the Charter required respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Member States. His Government believed that matters pertaining to Taiwan were internal and fell within the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China. He urged Members to continue to adhere to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) in dealing with the representation of China and expressed his Government's opposition to inclusion of the item.

85. **Mr. Laotegguelnodji** (Chad), recalling that the Republic of China (Taiwan) was a founding Member State, signatory of the Charter and active Member until the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), said that while that resolution recognized the People's Republic of China by giving it a seat at the United Nations, it did not expressly say that Taiwan was part of its national territory or that the People's Republic of China represented the people of the Republic of China.

86. Moreover, the Republic of China had been a sovereign State since 1912, well before the birth of the People's Republic of China, and had been enjoying sovereignty within its present territorial borders since 1945. The Organization should consider those historical and political factors with respect to its ambiguous stance on the Republic of China.

87. Citing the Charter, his delegation wondered what meaning the General Assembly could give to its own concept of universality and globalization when it applied double standards to Taiwan. Taiwan's exclusion

from United Nations efforts in the areas of peace, health, poverty and other challenges facing humanity was unjust and wasteful, especially since meeting those challenges required the full mobilization of all the world's resources. Taiwan had economic, technical, industrial and technological resources that it wished to share and the democratic and political experience to shoulder its obligations as a member of the international community. Taiwan was already involved in multisectoral cooperation with many countries and governmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the world and eager to do more in that regard.

88. His delegation thus recommended readmission of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United Nations. As a Member, Taiwan would, of course, represent only the Taiwanese people.

89. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt), calling discussion of the item for the past 12 years a waste of time, said his country was absolutely against its inclusion on the agenda and supported the recommendation of the working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly that items should be dropped from consideration for inclusion after three years if they failed to be adopted. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of the people of China.

90. **Mrs. Huree-Agarwal** (Mauritius) said that there was only one China and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legal Government of all of China. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled once and for all with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Her delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

91. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) reiterated his delegation's well-known position on the matter. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an inseparable part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate Government representing China and its people. As General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the item.

92. **Mr. Obeid** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation opposed the inclusion of the item. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question. Attempts to include the item were aimed at creating two Chinas and thus constituted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, in violation of the Charter. His delegation viewed the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representatives of the Chinese people.

93. **Mr. Aboutahir** (Morocco) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the question of the representation of China at the political, legal and procedural level. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. His delegation was firmly opposed to the inclusion of the item, which would violate the principle of territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter.

94. **Mr. Pimentel** (Chile) said that his delegation supported the idea of one China. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled in 1971, when resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted. His Government recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations and was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the item.

95. **Ms. Cedeño Reyes** (Venezuela) said that the proposed item should not be included on the agenda. The Government of Venezuela recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people.

96. **Ms. Menéndez** (Spain) said that his delegation had stated its position many times on the matter and stressed his Government's opposition to the inclusion of the item.

97. **Mr. Okio** (Congo) restated his delegation's support for the principle of territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries. China was a single and indivisible country of which Taiwan was an integral part. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had been adopted by an overwhelming majority, had settled the matter at the legal and procedural level. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item. His Government supported the position of the People's Republic of China and the views expressed by the representative of Egypt.

98. **Mr. Alimov** (Tajikistan) reiterated his delegation's support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and international legal status of the People's Republic of China. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was its sole legitimate representative. The issue had been settled by the General Assembly in its resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation could not therefore support the inclusion of the item.

99. **Mr. Molla Hosseini** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. His Government endorsed the "one China" principle and supported China's goal of national reunification. He was therefore opposed to inclusion of the proposed item.

100. **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) disapproved of the fresh attempts to include the item, which his Government viewed as contrary to the United Nations principle of non-interference in internal affairs and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Beijing was the sole legitimate representative of the people of China.

101. **Mr. Ferreira** (Sao Tome and Principe) said that his Government had established intergovernmental relations with Taiwan, which enjoyed a strong economy and democratic Government. Taiwan had been affected by SARS yet was excluded from the World Health Organization. His Government did not accept the idea of one China, given that the Government of Taiwan represents the people of Taiwan. His delegation supported the Gambia's proposal.

102. **Mr. Capelle** (Marshall Islands) said that his Government favoured inclusion of the item and reiterated its full support for the ongoing quest of the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in the United Nations. Because Taiwan was a peace-loving, representative, democratic, sovereign State, committed to human rights and prepared to carry out the obligations of the Charter of the United Nations, and an active, constructive member of the international community, there was no justification for its ongoing exclusion. Indeed, exclusion violated the principle of universality enshrined in the Charter. In view of the need to ensure that the Organization was a truly global institution, inclusive of all nations and able to address peace and security and other pressing issues, his Government urged all Member States to put political and strategic interests aside and support inclusion of the item for the sake of the people of the Republic of China.

103. **Mr. Gregoire** (Dominica) said that his delegation had joined the 14 other Member States that had sought to include the item and supported the view expressed by the Gambian delegation. Taiwan should be admitted to the United Nations considering the universality of its membership and the role that it played in post-cold war global governance. The decades-long exclusion of Taiwan was unjust.

104. The SARS outbreak earlier in the year demonstrated the need for swift and coordinated global responses to health threats and the critical role that each nation must play in maintaining biosecurity. Taiwan's contributions to global health should, at the very least, earn it observer status in the World Health Assembly.

105. Despite the shift in the United Nations towards greater participation of global civil society in the activities and deliberations of the Organization, Taiwanese civil society had been excluded from United Nations conferences, thus belying the Organization's embrace of civil society. His delegation urged the United Nations to recognize the civic organizations and private sector of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

106. Taiwan was a free, democratic, peace-loving State, the world's seventeenth largest economy, with full diplomatic relations with 27 States Members of the United Nations, and an active member of many international organizations, including the World Trade Organization since January 2002. The aspirations of the citizens of the Republic of China deserved recognition and consideration from the United Nations. His delegation therefore urged the inclusion of the item.

107. **Mrs. Ninčić** (Serbia and Montenegro), recalling that the principles of State sovereignty and territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations applied to all States and that United Nations Members were made up of sovereign States only, said that the Organization was not the appropriate place for representation of provinces and regions. Adhering to the purposes and principles of the Charter, her Government fully supported a policy of one China.

Many international legal instruments had conferred sovereign rights over Taiwan to China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the so-called question of Taiwan. Her delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

108. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) said that his delegation fully supported the statement by the representative of the People's Republic of China rejecting the proposed inclusion of the item. There was only one China, which was represented by the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan was an integral part of it. Citing the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, his delegation viewed the item as a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of representation. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item and supported the position of Egypt.

109. **Mr. Izata** (Angola) said that paragraph 4 of resolution 2758 (XXVI) recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representatives in the United Nations. A longstanding friend of the People's Republic of China since Angola had gained independence, his Government enjoyed fruitful trade relations with Taiwan as well. But China's relations with Taiwan were an internal matter and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity must be taken into account. Angola trusted that the inclusion of the item would be postponed.

110. **Mr. Manis** (Sudan) noted that attempts to include the item recurred despite the opposition of the majority. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) definitively established the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representatives at the United Nations and safeguarded the legal rights of China in accordance with the Charter. In light of the above, his Government firmly opposed the inclusion of the item.

111. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal) said that his delegation held the view that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had unequivocally recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole lawful representative of China to the United Nations, and therefore the question of the representation of Taiwan had been settled. His delegation was no longer in a position to agree to the proposed inclusion of the item in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session.

112. **Mr. Buffa** (Paraguay) said that his delegation had stated its position in a letter that had been circulated as document A/58/355. Paraguay had full diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with Taiwan, which it valued highly. It believed that the matter should be resolved on the basis of the principle of universality and international law, and that the international community could no longer avoid dealing with the issue. As a Member of an Organization whose purpose was solving conflicts, his Government was confident that a solution to that problem could be found as well and supported inclusion of the item.

113. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his delegation adhered to the "one China" principle, and believed that the question had been decided definitively in 1971. It therefore opposed inclusion of the item.

114. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that, in the view of his delegation, the question of the representation of Taiwan had been closed with the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had designated the People's Republic of China as the only legal representation at the United Nations. Therefore, it strongly opposed inclusion of the item.

115. **Mr. Mamba** (Swaziland) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of the Gambia. The past year had been one of the most difficult in the history of the United Nations, but the Organization had met the challenges it had faced. The 23 million people of Taiwan also looked to the United Nations for representation, and it must not fail them. Their country had a right to membership and wished only to fulfil its obligations as a member of the international community. That desire was not an attempt to create two Chinas; in fact, they had been governed separately since 1949. It was in the interest of the People's Republic of China to accept Taiwan as a friendly neighbour.

116. **Mr. Mubarez** (Yemen) said that the proposal for inclusion of the item had been rejected consistently. Yemen continued to oppose it because Yemen had itself suffered division and did not wish to promote it. Furthermore, inclusion of the item would contradict the acceptance of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of China in the United Nations, and would lead to tensions.

117. **Mr. Nteturuye** (Burundi) said that his delegation remained convinced that the matter had already been settled with the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI).

Inclusion of the item would represent a violation of Chinese sovereignty and the one China principle.

118. **Mr. Leslie** (Belize) said that the exclusion of Taiwan from membership in the United Nations violated the Charter principles of universality and self-determination. Taiwan met all the criteria for statehood and for membership; it had full diplomatic relations with 30 countries and some degree of relationship with 140 others. Chinese sovereignty would not be impaired in any way by placing the item on the agenda; on the contrary, such an action would demonstrate respect for the Charter and the human rights of the people of Taiwan.

119. **Mr. Djangone-Bi** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his delegation attached great importance to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions, for example resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had been adopted by a large majority and had settled the question of the representation of China. His delegation believed that the matter was one that should be settled between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, and therefore it opposed inclusion of the item.

120. **Mr. Farhâdi** (Afghanistan) said that the "two Chinas" or "one China — one Taiwan" solution had been rejected 32 years earlier with the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI). Afghanistan, which had a common border with China, had maintained good relations with that country for 54 years. The proposed peaceful solution of one country, two systems, similar to the arrangements made regarding Hong Kong and Macao, should be given serious consideration. His delegation also supported the statement of the representative of Egypt.

121. **Mr. Aguilar Zinser** (Mexico) said that his delegation supported the reform of the work of the General Assembly. It also supported the territorial integrity and sovereignty of China, and believed that inclusion of the item would not be in conformity with those principles. There was no reason to question the validity of the resolution already adopted on the subject.

122. **Mr. Jino** (Solomon Islands) said that his delegation endorsed the statement of the Gambia. The United Nations had been established to serve all peoples and must not exclude any nation or country. Over the years, however, Taiwan's request for membership had been deliberately ignored and its people denied their fundamental rights under the Charter. They had also experienced discrimination in receiving assistance from the United Nations; the delayed WHO assistance to Taiwan during the SARS outbreak was the most recent example.

123. It was an undeniable fact that Taiwan was a sovereign democratic State. It had transparent, vibrant and progressive economic, social and political systems which were totally separate and independent of the People's Republic of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) addressed only the representation of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, not its control or sovereignty over Taiwan. Taiwan's citizens were strongly committed to human rights and were willing to carry out their international obligations under the Charter. Their proven contributions to the international community were well known.

124. The United Nations, as a universal organization, must live up to its ideals and principles. Taiwan's request for membership in the United Nations and other international institutions had been before the international community for a decade, and must no longer be avoided. Taiwan deserved membership in the United Nations. It wished to share its development experience, to contribute to the economic and social advancement of humankind and the achievement of international peace and security, and to be an equal partner in building confidence and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. He urged the United Nations to be proactive on that issue.

125. **Mr. Stagno Ugarte** (Costa Rica) urged the members of the Committee to support the request for inclusion of the item. In 1971, the General Assembly had agreed to incorporate the delegation of the People's Republic of China, which was the right decision as it promoted the principle of universality. That same principle should be applied to the representation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the United Nations. That country could make a significant contribution to the work of the Organization. For many years it had been an active member and an active participant in all its activities, and had fulfilled its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council effectively. Since 1971, the Republic of China (Taiwan) had formed close and fruitful ties with the peoples and Governments of the world to promote sustainable development.

126. The position of principle which his delegation had taken gave due consideration to the recognized role played by the People's Republic of China in international affairs. In keeping with the spirit of universality, Costa Rica favoured representation by both Governments in the Organization.

127. **Ms. Ndhlovu** (South Africa) said that post-apartheid South Africa had established full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and had ended its relations with Taiwan, as an indication of its view that the matter was internal and must be resolved between those two parties. South Africa, therefore, could not support the inclusion of the item.

128. **Mr. Tidjani** (Cameroon) said that it was his delegation's well known position that the resolution adopted in 1971 retained its relevance and had settled the question definitively. It therefore opposed inclusion of the item.

129. **Mr. Koyota** (Palau) said that his delegation requested inclusion of the item as an acknowledgement that Taiwan had met and exceeded all requirements for membership. The 23 million people of Taiwan had been marginalized and excluded from decision-making in the international community for far too long. Taiwan was able and willing to make a positive contribution to the Organization, and it would be unjust to exclude it any longer.

130. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that failure to consider Taiwan for membership violated Article 4 of the Charter. In the age of globalization, it was no longer possible to allow one country to remain marginalized. Therefore, his delegation supported inclusion of the item.

131. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal) said that his delegation supported the statement of the Gambia. The Republic of China (Taiwan) had been a founding Member of the United Nations and a member of the Security Council. It would continue to assist developing countries in the areas of agriculture, medicine and development, and its assistance during the recent SARS epidemic had been valuable. Opening the way for membership of the Republic of China (Taiwan) did not affect the status of the People's Republic of China; the Organization could only be enriched by such an action.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.